

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Fused ceramic grains having the following average chemical composition by weight, in percentages by weight on the basis of the oxides:

Al_2O_3 : 93% to 98.5%;

MgO : 2.2 to 6.5%;

SiO_2 : < 0.1%;

other impurities: < 0.4%,

wherein the maximum carbon content being is 200 ppm,

and

wherein the grains consist of corundum crystals surrounded by a nonstoichiometric $\text{MgO}-\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ spinel phase.

2. (currently amended) ~~Grains~~ The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, wherein the minimum MgO content, as a percentage by weight on the basis of the oxides, is 2.3%.

3. (currently amended) ~~Grains~~ The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, wherein the minimum MgO content, as a percentage by weight on the basis of the oxides, is 2.45%.

4. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, wherein the maximum MgO content, as a percentage by weight on the basis of the oxides, is 4%.

5. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, wherein the maximum MgO content, as a percentage by weight on the basis of the oxides, is 2.5%.

6-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, wherein the maximum Na₂O content, as a percentage by weight on the basis of the oxides, is 0.1%, preferably 0.05%.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein the mean size of said corundum crystals is between 18 and 20 μm

11. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein 90% of said corundum crystals have a size of greater than 9 μm and 90% have a size of less than 27 μm .

12. (currently amended) Grains The fused ceramic grains according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein 100% of said corundum crystals have a size of greater than 5 μm .

13-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) Fused The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, having a grit number of F60 or less according to FEPA Standard 42-GB-1984, and presenting the following size distribution, with test sieves according to ASTM E11-87,

	Test sieve 1	Test sieve 2	Test sieve 3	Test sieves 3 and 4	Remainder in the bottom pan
aperture size (μm)	425	300	250	212	
Residue (%)	0	30 max	40 min	65 min	3 max

24. (currently amended) Fused The fused ceramic grains according to claim 1, having a grit number of F36 or less according to FEPA Standard 42-GB-1984, and presenting the following size distribution, with test sieves according to ASTM E11-87,

	Test sieve 1	Test sieve 2	Test sieve 3	Test sieves 3 and 4	Remainder in the bottom pan
aperture size (μm)	850	600	500	425	
Residue (%)	0	25 max	45 min	65 min	3 max

25. (canceled)